

## Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

SAM-01 OIC-04 ACDA-19 AF-10 DRC-01 /148 W

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O 201515Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3343

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2396

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, ICRC

SUBJECT: PRG INVITATION TO DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON LAWS OF WAR

REF: STATE 027026 AND 032618; GENEVA 1013; ROME 2053

1. ON FEBRUARY 20 CHARGE OUTLINED RATIONALE FOR US OPPOSITION TO INVITATION TO PRG TO GENEVA CONFERENCE ON LAWS OF WAR TO ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS DUCCI, AND ASKED FOR ITALIAN SUPPORT ON URGENT BASIS. DUCCI EXPLAINED ITALIAN POSITION AS FOLLOWS: ITALIANS OPPOSED CATEGORICALLY INVITATIONS TO CONFERENCE FOR PRG, GUINEA/BISSAU AND AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS STATES PARTIES; HOWEVER, ITALIANS WOULD FIND IT "DIFFICULT" TO OPPOSE SOME SORT OF OBSERVER STATUS FOR PRG AND OTHER GROUPS. DUCCI SAID THAT SHOULD OBSERVER STATUS BE PROPOSED AND IF ISSUE WERE PRESSED TO VOTE, ITALIANS WOULD MOST LIKELY ABSTAIN. IN ANY CASE, ACCORDING DUCCI, ITALIANS WILL BE INFLUENCED BY CONSENSUS WHICH DEVELOPS AMONG WEOS.

2. WE MADE PARALLEL APPROACH ON SUBJECT TO VALENZA, FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF UN AFFAIRS. VALENZA REPEATED THAT ITALIANS

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UNEQUIVOCALLY OPPOSE INVITATION OF PRG TO CONFERENCE AS STATE

PARTY, BUT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO EXCLUDE PRG ALTOGETHER IN LIGHT OF WHAT APPEARED TO BE AGREEMENT FOR ATTENDANCE OF AFRICAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS OBSERVERS. HE ASKED HOW PRG COULD BE DIFFERENTIATED IN THIS SENSE FROM AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. WE STATED THAT OUR INSTRUCTIONS WERE FIRM, AND THAT US WOULD OPPOSE ANY INVITATION OF PRG TO ATTEND IN ANY STATUS, AND WE SOUGHT ITALIAN SUPPORT FOR THIS US POSITION.

3. VALENZA MENTIONED THAT CANADIANS HAD COME UP WITH "COMPROMISE" PROPOSAL, AND FROM CONVERSATION WE DEDUCED THAT CANADIAN COMPROMISE POINTED TOWARD SOME SORT OF OBSERVER STATUS FOR PRG. (WE HAVE NO RPT NO OTHER INFORMATION ON REPORTED CANADIAN COMPROMISE PROPOSAL.) VALENZA SAID ITALIAN VIEWS ARE CLOSE TO CANADIAN PROPOSAL, ALTHOUGH ITALIANS WILLING TO GIVE LESS TO PRG THAN CANADIANS ARE APPARENTLY SUGGESTING.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, VALENZA STATED THAT ITALIAN POSITION WOULD CONFORM WITH WEOS CONSENSUS. HE STATED THAT ITALIANS HAD ALSO INSTRUCTED THEIR DELEGATION IN GENEVA TO SUGGEST AN EC CAUCUS ON SUBJECT. ACCORDING VALENZA, HE HIMSELF WILL TRAVEL TO GENEVA ON MORNING OF FEBRUARY 21 TO JOIN THE ITALIAN DELEGATION, AND HE ASKED THAT US DEL CONTACT HIM FOR LATEST READING ON ITALIAN VIEWS. BEAUDRY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW, WAR, COALITION GOVERNMENT, MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ROME02396  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 027026 AND 032618; GENEVA 1013, ; ROME 2053  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2003 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRG INVITATION TO DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON LAWS OF WAR  
**TAGS:** PARM, ICRC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005